

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

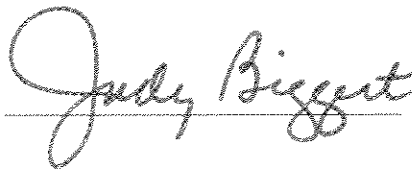
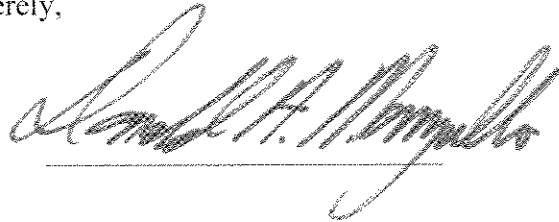
Last week's discovery of a single Bighead carp has prompted strong reactions for immediate, permanent action to be taken to protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp. While we also share the same concern, we caution against any future permanent action that may impede commerce in the Midwest region.

The recent capture in Lake Calumet, Illinois, is the first carp specimen to be found above the barrier system in Chicago-area waterways (CAWS). While this is a disappointing and startling find, it does not in itself prove that there is a sustainable population of Asian carp beyond the barriers. The discovery does, however, make it even more imperative that all resources be made available to increase current efforts to protect the Great lakes from Asian carp.

The Great Lakes are not only home to a bountiful ecological environment, but they are also a vital economic lifeline for the Midwest states. While it is clear that more measures are needed to protect against Asian carp, it is also important that any actions that are taken do not adversely affect a region. We cannot ignore the economic and physical consequences that hastened and uninformed decisions - - such as immediate closing of the locks - - would have on the Great Lakes.

With this in mind, we urge you to immediately increase current monitoring efforts and prioritize economic and human health impacts as you determine the best long term solution to this issue. It is critical that our environmental management decisions be guided by facts, and not rash conclusions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Judy Biggert in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Robert A. Mumpelt in cursive script.

Curran Halverson JRH 12-19

Peter Proskam Sam Johnson 12-18

David Christman Pete J. Vindovsky

Phil Hane

cc: The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
The Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency